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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I support your efforts to see that the Federal Court approves the settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. I believe that approval of the settlement would be in the best interest of the United States. I do not think Microsoft ever had or abused a monopoly. I think Microsoft simply build the best, easiest to use, value-priced software. There have always been software choices to be made in buying computers. Microsoft just won out. However, the settlement is good in that it gets the lawsuit behind Microsoft and opens up the Windows software to the industry.

Just as Microsoft gives up much in the settlement, the computer industry gains much in being better able to integrate its products with Microsoft's Windows operating system, or avoiding Microsoft products. Microsoft will disclose its software code for internal Windows interfaces and license its other software to any company that wants to use it. Computer makers will no longer be required to adhere to exclusive marketing agreements with Microsoft, and will be able to modify Windows to remove Microsoft's program, such as Internet Explorer. So, I do not see what Microsoft's competitors could really still want in a reasonable way. Some competitors, having been ignored by customers, seem to think they can become bigger fish in a smaller pond by seeking to dismember and destroy Microsoft. That would not be good for America and its leading place in the worldwide computer industry.

Sincerely,



J. Esman